

## Aberystwyth University

### *Roundtable on International History*

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*Published in:*  
British International History Group Newsletter

*Publication date:*  
2015

*Citation for published version (APA):*  
Finney, P. (2015). Roundtable on International History. *British International History Group Newsletter*, 21, 3.

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# BRITISH INTERNATIONAL HISTORY GROUP

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Newsletter 2015

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# Welcome

A stylized world map in shades of blue and white, with several curved blue lines representing latitude or longitude, set against a dark blue background.

The **British International History Group** was established back in 1987 by a group of university academics and is one of the oldest working groups within its parent organisation, the British International Studies Association (BISA).

The BIHG promotes research into international history, provides a forum for discussions in the field and highlights the relevance of an historical approach to the wider study of international relations. To help fulfil these purposes, the Group acts as a link to other relevant institutions, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and The National Archives, who each send a member along to our regular committee meetings. We also seek to defend the interests of historians of international relations at national level by, for example, making representations about the format of national research exercises and pressing for the membership of an international historian on the REF History sub-panel. To keep members informed of its activities, BIHG has an e-mailing list, an annual newsletter and a website. It holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the annual conference, but has also been involved in organising a number of ad hoc conferences on particular subjects and has regularly organised panels at the BISA annual conference. The executive committee includes the Officers of the Group and a number of ordinary members, who meet four times per year to plan the annual conference and other events, oversee the preparation of the newsletter and website, and discuss particular challenges (most recently that of our relationship with BISA). We hope that you find us a welcoming and supportive organisation that listens to what you have to say.

We look forward to seeing you at our 28th annual conference at the University of Edinburgh in September 2016.

**John Young**  
Chair of the British International History Group

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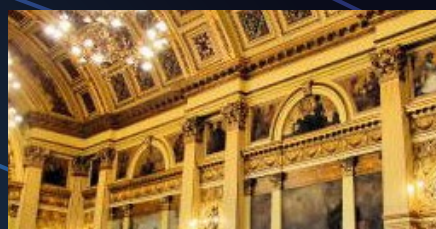
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# BIHG 27th Annual conference 2015

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The conference, which was the largest in the organisation's history, attracted over ninety delegates from all over the world



The School of History at the University of Kent played host to the 27th Annual Conference of the British International History Group, 10-12 September 2015. The conference, which was the largest in the organisation's history, attracted over ninety delegates from all over the world, including Malaysia, South Korea, the United States, Canada, the Middle East, as well as a large contingent of academics from British universities. The conference opened with a round table discussion about changes in the teaching of international history over the years, chaired by Dr Patrick Finney (Aberystwyth University). It included contributions from Professor Gaynor Johnson (University of Kent), Dr Antony Best (LSE), Dr Spencer Mawby (Nottingham University) and Dr Helen Parr (Keele University). The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr James Ellison (Queen Mary, University of London), with the title, 'Failed Intelligence? The Origins of the Iraq War'. This was preceded by a plenary session chaired by Kai Bruns (American University in the Emirates) on diplomatic practice in the twentieth century. The main focus of the discussion was the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. He led participation from Professor John Young (Nottingham University); Dr Lorna Lloyd (Keele University); Ben Muda (Universiti Utara Malaysia) as well as contributing a discussion of the British response to the Convention. The delegates attended a record number of panels on subjects as diverse as the diplomatic fall out from the Congress of Vienna to the consequences of 9/11. On 11 September, delegates enjoyed a conference dinner at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, which also offered an opportunity to explore the cathedral, which is part of the World Heritage Site in the heart of the city.



James Ellison's keynote address is available via <http://bit.ly/1QJ6WfZ>

Twitter coverage [#BIHG2015](#)

Storify <https://storify.com/RogeliaPastorC/bihg2015>

**Gaynor Johnson, University of Kent**

## Roundtable on International History

The conference in Kent opened with a roundtable discussion on ‘teaching international history’, chaired by Patrick Finney (Aberystwyth) and with presentations from four experienced colleagues. Although the majority of sessions at the conference naturally focused on sharing members’ research findings, the choice of topic for the roundtable testified to the BIHG’s important broader role as a professional body. Participants were invited to offer thoughts on any aspect of the topic, ranging from the impact of large scale structural changes on teaching to examples of pedagogic innovation and good practice. Gaynor Johnson (Kent) opened the session with a wide ranging survey, touching in particular on the transformative impact of advances in the digitisation of archival sources for teaching with primary sources and the growing problems posed by students’ lack of abilities in foreign languages. She also discussed the pros and cons of students’ preferences to focus on very contemporary topics. Antony Best (LSE) picked up on this point in his own broad reflections, noting the difficulties this predilection created as regards the need to deploy primary sources, especially in dissertations. He discussed how the introduction of the National Student Survey (NSS) had impacted on pedagogic practice at the LSE, especially in relation to feedback on assessments, and also noted how the cultural turn had led to increased emphasis on historiographical issues – with positive and negative consequences. He also shared some of the teaching strategies he had employed to cope with classes comprised of students with very varying levels of background knowledge and English language proficiency. Spencer Mawby (Nottingham) kept the focus on teaching strategies with his observations on his own recent experience using ‘gobbet’ exercises in his Special Subject classes. Using worked examples, he proselytised for the virtues of the ‘gobbet’ in inculcating specific skills, but also reflected on his students’ reluctance to attempt ‘gobbets’



drawn from cultural – as opposed to political and diplomatic – sources. Helen Parr (Keele) then opened the discussion outwards again, and talked about the challenges of teaching international history to Politics and International Relations students. She also touched on the flimsiness of students’ broader contextual knowledge and how their high levels of technical expertise often contrasted markedly with their lack of a sense of intellectual adventure; she observed that it may well be the pressures induced by £9K fees that have made some students rather conservative in their approach to their studies. The discussion was then opened to the audience and lively debate ensued, touching particularly on the challenges posed by changing student expectations in an age of high fees and the NSS; the pros and cons of the traditional lecture format; and the contrasting virtues of international history and IR. The roundtable format is not conducive, of course, to the generation of any neat and clear-cut conclusions, but the session certainly offered some therapeutic relief to colleagues on the eve of another busy teaching year and succeeded in raising awareness of a host of contemporary professional concerns.

**Patrick Finney**  
**Aberystwyth University**

Papers were presented by delegates in seven separate panel sessions as follows:

<b>David Varey, Royal Military College of Canada</b>	'Margaret Corby Ashton and the British Delegation at the World Disarmament Conference, 1932–1934'
<b>Peter Neville, Westminster University</b>	'An English Woman Abroad: Shiela Grant Duff in the Czech Crisis of 1938'
<b>Jessica Shahan, Aberystwyth University</b>	'Women's Revolts, Mumsnet and the Intelligence and Security Committee: Creating a Women's History of Women's Employment in MI5'
<b>Alex Ferguson, University of Southampton</b>	'The US Embassy to Saigon and Press Problems in Indochina, 1953–1954'
<b>Robert Pee, City University London</b>	'The Third Force Doctrine: The US and democracy promotion in authoritarian allied states, 1981–1990'
<b>Camilla MacDonald, University of Oxford</b>	'The Shape of Things to Come: Global Order and Global Democracy in 1940s International Thought'
<b>Fausto Scarinzi, University of Reading</b>	'A new History of Britain's Decolonisation conflicts and its implications for Political Science'
<b>Martin Farr, University of Newcastle upon Tyne</b>	'International interpretations of Thatcherism, 1981–1990'
<b>Richard Smith, Foreign and Commonwealth Office</b>	'Sir Edward Grey and the First World War'
<b>David Kaufman, University of Edinburgh</b>	'The question can receive no answer: The position of Ukraine in British Policy, 1917–1920'
<b>Ben Markham, University of Essex</b>	'The Imperial War Cabinet and Australian and South African territorial ambitions in the wake of the First World War'
<b>Charlie Hall, University of Kent</b>	'A policy of plunder: British exploitation of German Science and Technology after World War II'
<b>Stuart Butler, University of Manchester</b>	'Imperial delusions or pragmatic contingencies? The role of the US Atomic Energy Act (1946) in the direction of Scientific Diplomacy, 1958–1968'
<b>Andrew Holt, The National Archives</b>	'British policy-making and nuclear weapons sharing in the 1960s'
<b>Marika Sherwood, Institute of Commonwealth Studies</b>	'The West African National Secretariat and the failure of the Lagos Conference to materialise, 1948'
<b>Poppy Cullen, University of Durham</b>	'The role of the Kenyan Asians as a "special Problem" in the Anglo-Kenyan relationship, 1967–1974'
<b>Antony Best, London School of Economics</b>	'Admiration and Deprecation: Admiration and Romanticism and British perceptions of Japan, 1863–1910'
<b>Andrew Cobbing, University of Nottingham</b>	'The Arrival of the Japanese Resident Diplomat in Europe'
<b>Philip Boobbyer, University of Kent</b>	'Lord Rennell and AMGOT: Fascism, the Mafia and Indirect Rule in Sicily in 1943'
<b>David Hall, University of East Anglia</b>	'At odds with itself: British policy towards France, 1941–1943'
<b>Rogelia Pastor-Castro, University of Strathclyde</b>	'Britain, France and European Security 1951–1954'
<b>Bruno Reis, ICS University Lisbon</b>	'Ganging up against Anti-Colonialism: Colonial Powers Talks and the International History of Decolonisation'
<b>David Schriffl, Austrian Academy of Sciences</b>	'Secret Friends? Austrian-Portuguese relations after World War II'
<b>George Roberts, University of Warwick</b>	'Dangerous Liaisons: Portuguese decolonisation and British relations with the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO)'
<b>Teng Chi Chang, National Taiwan University</b>	'The Mongolian Banner System in Qing Dynasty: An Innovation of the International Political System under China's "under Heaven Concept"'
<b>Hung-jen Wang, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan</b>	'Independence in China's All-Under-Heaven World: Revisiting the Four Cases of Taiwan, Hong-Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet'
<b>Chung-Chiu Huang, National Chengchi University, Taiwan</b>	'Recusing Harmony from the Disharmonious Relationship: The Anthropology of International Relations in Vietnam's View of China'
<b>Shih-yueh Yang, Nanhua University, Taiwan</b>	'Exploring the Foundation of the East Asian International Order: The "Oneness" of China and China's Unification'
<b>Tony McCulloch, University College London</b>	'Roca-Runciman revisited: Anglo-American relations and Argentina, 1933–1939'
<b>Thomas Mills, University of Lancaster</b>	'The outer limits of the "Special relationship": Anglo-US relations in Latin America during World war II'

<b>Mark Seddon, University of Sheffield</b>	'Anglo-US relations and Venezuelan Oil, 1939–1945'
<b>Laure Humbert, University of Manchester</b>	'French politics of national sovereignty and the International Bureaucracy of Relief, 1943–1945'
<b>Laurine Groux-Moreau, University of Bristol</b>	'A transnational comparison of the Deaf Resurgence since the 1960s'
<b>Mark Hurst, University of Kent</b>	'The transnational activism of British human rights organisations, 1965–1985'
<b>Thomas Munch-Petersen, UCL</b>	'Denmark and Sweden and the Congress of Vienna, 1814–1815'
<b>Thomas Goldsmith, University of East Anglia</b>	'The Duke of Wellington and the International System, 1814–1835'
<b>Matthew Rendall, University of Nottingham</b>	'Democracy, Demonisation and the Crimean War'
<b>Maria Rizou, King's College London</b>	'The Bank of England, the Bank of Greece and the Refugee Loan Crisis: The external loan of 1924'
<b>Martin Williamson, University of Exeter</b>	'The forgotten international monetary negotiations: the C20, 1972–1974'
<b>Dimitris Bourantonis, Athens University of Economics and Business</b>	'The interplay between collective and special responsibility and its impact on the evolution of the UN institutional building'
<b>Matthew Powell, University of Birmingham</b>	'Tactical Air Power Development in Britain during World War II'
<b>Michelle Jones, Aberystwyth University</b>	'Children on the Battlefield: A Modern Phenomenon'
<b>Helen Parr, Keele University</b>	'Memory of the Falklands War'
<b>Andres Sanchez-Padilla, Independent Researcher</b>	'The Columbian Expositions (1883–1893): Foundations of twentieth century US public diplomacy'
<b>Rory Miller, University of Liverpool</b>	'Rebuilding British business links with South America in the Age of US hegemony, 1945–1965'
<b>Olivia Saunders, University of South Wales</b>	'Britain, the United States and the Bolivian National Revolution, 1952'
<b>David Whittington, University of the West of England, Bristol</b>	'The Politics of the Bengal Famine, 1942–1944'
<b>Hsin Chih Chen, National Cheng Kung University Taiwan</b>	'Weak power with firm resolve: China's silent territorial extension over the Spratley Islands before 1950'
<b>Sanchi Rai, Jawaharlal Nehru University</b>	'The influence of British India foreign policy on Indian foreign policy: mapping continuities and changes post Indian Independence'
<b>Luke Gibbon, Foreign and Commonwealth Office</b>	'John Morley, Britain and the Anglo-Chinese opium agreement of 1907'
<b>Neil Fleming, University of Worcester</b>	'Gentlemen Amateurs? The Conservative Party 1922 Committee and Foreign Affairs, 1923–1939'
<b>Miklos Lojko, ELTE – Budapest</b>	'Dictatorships and Crises in Four Corners of the World: Britain and the retreat from free trade, 1919–1941'
<b>Philippa Houghton, University of Durham</b>	'Internationalism, Professionalism and British advertising, 1923–1939'
<b>Tommaso Milani, London School of Economics</b>	'In a world they never made: Supranationalism and Economic Planning within the British Left, 1938–1945'
<b>Baris Gulmez, University of Warwick</b>	'The paradox of Turkish foreign policy in the 1930s: Revisionism and Irredentism through multilateral diplomacy'
<b>Seung-young Kim, University of Sheffield</b>	'Neutrality and Buffer Zone as alternatives to escalation: The US and British suggestions during the early stages of the Korean War'
<b>Robert Barnes, York St John University</b>	'Britain's other Special Relationship: Anglo-Ceylonese relations and the early Cold War, 1948–1956'
<b>Tom Colley, King's College London</b>	'Strategic narratives from the ground up? Investigating British public understanding of war'
<b>Norasmahani Hussain, University of Leeds</b>	'The Cyprus Dispute and Great Britain's decision to leave Turkey and Greece outside NATO, 1948–1950'
<b>Evanthis Hatzivassilou, University of Athens</b>	'The Disease should cease to be Endemic and revert to Sporadic; The crisis of NATO political consultation from DEFCON3 to the Atlantic Declaration, 1973–1974'
<b>Keith McLoughlin, University College Dublin</b>	'The British Left and the Political Economy of Defence, 1970–1979'



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# REFlections

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Compared to 2008 there was a real improvement in the quality of History research and I'm pleased to say that world-leading 4\* research could be found in almost all units and in all areas

2014 was the second time I served on the Research Exercise sub-panel for History, partly thanks to being nominated by our parent organisation, the British International Studies Association. The process is surrounded by confidentiality, so it is impossible to comment on the experience of departments or individuals, and even difficult to say much on the processes used. However, I think it would be helpful if I made some comments, especially on the latest exercise, as well as giving some advice on how to reflect on the 2014 results and plan for the proposed REF 2020.

From the viewpoint of an international historian, I think it is important to note that (a.) we did get a dedicated international historian on the last two panels and that as a full member (who looked at the Environment and Impact fields, not just a reader of the outputs) (b.) international history got an honourable mention in the sub-panel's overall report (on which more below) and (c.), as some of you have told me, our field also got positive comments in the confidential feedback given to particular departments. We need to be ready, as a Group, to get an international historian nominated to the next panel in 2020 (if, that is, the REF goes ahead as planned then). My own experience was that the Panels in both 2008 and 2014 took the process extremely seriously: there were lots of meetings, lots of very careful discussions, lots of referring back to the rule-book. I've had some people say, for example, that we cannot have read all the outputs that were submitted to us. Well, we said we would and we did. We believed that only by doing so could we provide a proper system of 'peer review.'

If you are doing a post mortem on your department's 2014 performance then, apart from the raw results that were published in December and the short, confidential written feedback sent to each University about its particular units, I strongly recommend that you make full use of the REF2014 website, especially the sections on Unit of Assessment (UOA) 30, History. While you

cannot separate international history's contribution out, you can get a good idea of how your department compares with other institutions in various areas, including how many staff were returned by each department (or unit) and the three key elements of Outputs (65% of the total score), Impact (20%, most of it linked to particular case studies) and Environment (15%, including such areas as strategy, staffing policy and contribution to the discipline).

I would also advise you to take a good look, too, at the Overview report from Main Panel D, which covers Arts and Humanities, and of which History (sub-panel 30) was part, alongside English, Classics, Modern Languages and others. Just search for the following online: <http://www.ref.ac.uk/media/ref/content/expanel/member/Main%20Panel%20D%20overview%20report.pdf>

The report is 116 pages long and has lots of statistics and tables. It includes quite a long general, introduction. While covering a broad range of subjects, this section helps to put History's performance into a broader context and includes some interesting points, such as the decrease in numbers of outputs submitted (by 15%) compared to 2008, which seems to suggest that universities around the country were being much more selective about what research they submitted. This may have reflected the fact that, whereas in 2008 two-starred research ('internationally recognised') still attracted some funding, that was not the case in 2014: only 4\* ('world-leading') and 3\* ('internationally excellent') brings in funding now. That in turn helps explain why there was so little 1\* (still 'nationally recognised') and U (unclassified) in the system.

More important than the general introduction, though, is what the Overview report has to say about History on pages 50-58. As it tells you at the outset, all the sub-panel members contributed to this, so it reflects our collective wisdom. It shows that we looked at 83 history units (generally single-standing departments) and



considered the work of nearly 1,800 staff, with 6,458 outputs in all. Incidentally, 804 of those outputs were double-weighted and I don't think it is giving anything away to say that many of those were research monographs. You might also note that almost all (in fact 797) of the requests for double-weighting were approved by the panel and we could easily have received more: some universities seemed to have a policy of not asking for double-weighting and, as the report puts it, 'this did harm to the output profile of the submissions concerned.'

Compared to 2008 there was a real improvement in the quality of History research and I'm pleased to say that 'world-leading' 4\* research could be found in almost all units and in all areas of historical research, including our own. Most of the outputs, by the way, were books (32%), articles in journals (38%) or chapters in edited books (23 %), but we assessed them all equally. It was the quality of the output that counted, not where you published it or the form it took: that is why we read them all. The History section also includes a few mentions of international history, including the remark that the 'history of non-UK topics was... often at its best when it confronted transnational, international, often global, issues', and the comment that 'the rise of cultural history has not meant that political and diplomatic history was necessarily of less high quality.'

Looking forward (if that is the appropriate term) to the planned REF2020, I can only suggest that you plan on the basis that the main elements will be similar to last time, that is: outputs will still carry most weight and each person returned will need four of them (ideally 3\* and 4\*), but with reduced numbers for early Career Researchers; double-weighting will still be possible in History, even if it is not used in some other fields, and your university should be prepared to ask for this; Impact, especially in the form of case studies, will be important too (and there are indications it may count for more next time), so you may be expected to contribute to one of those; and we should all also be making 'contributions to the discipline' as part of the Environment heading (and such contributions might, by the way, include serving on the BIHG committee or hosting the annual conference – so do give consideration to those). However, after the post-2008 experience, my advice is also to keep a very close eye on the rules for REF2020 as they emerge: back in 2008 we had no idea that Impact would loom so large by 2014; there may be some equally significant surprises next time.

**John Young**  
**University of Nottingham**

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# Britain and France in World War Two

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## Colloquium at British Embassy Paris

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Sir Peter Ricketts, British Ambassador to France, hosted a colloquium on Britain and France in World War Two convened by Dr Rogelia Pastor-Castro and Dr Karine Varley. The event brought together British and French historians to reflect on international approaches to war, diplomatic and imperial relations, resistance and collaboration and security and intelligence. Although it was a conference on World War Two, the wide-ranging content covered the legacy of World War One, the immediate post-war period and the missed opportunities in the Franco-British relationship. In the first panel on Britain and France, David Reynolds explored one of the fascinating ‘what ifs’ of twentieth-century history. How would British-French relations have developed if France had not fallen in 1940? Would the British have developed a very different attitude to ‘Europe’? I presented a paper on ‘The Paris Embassy and Franco-British diplomatic relations’. The second panel on Churchill and de Gaulle included Antoine Capet on ‘Comment Churchill voyait-il la France et les Français à la veille de la guerre?’ and Julian Jackson who spoke about ‘De Gaulle in London’. Following lunch, Antony Beevor presented a paper on Franco-Soviet Relations, 1943–47. The afternoon sessions began with Olivier Wieviorka, whose paper tried to reassess the part played by the Britain and the United States in the shaping of the French resistance; and Karine Varley who explored how perceptions of Britain and the British government shaped the formulation of foreign policy under the Vichy regime. The final panel on Security and Empire saw contributions from Peter Jackson who examined Franco-British intelligence co-operation in the years leading up to and beyond the outbreak of the Second World War; and Martin Thomas and Richard Toye, who spoke about ‘Franco-British imperial rhetoric, 1940–45’ and showed how both collaboration and resistance were acts (or processes) with intrinsic imperial (and rhetorical) repercussions.

The event was held at the British Ambassador’s Residence, one of the most splendid historic homes in Paris and the most impressive of all British ambassadorial residences abroad, home to successive British Ambassadors since 1814. Churchill knew the house well and was a frequent visitor including the famous occasion in 1944 when he descended the Champs Élysées with General de Gaulle on 11 November. As well as historians from Britain and France, the guest list included representatives from archives, museums, foreign ministries and the media. The day ended with a vin d’honneur and the opportunity for guests participate in a tour of the Residence.

The speakers were:

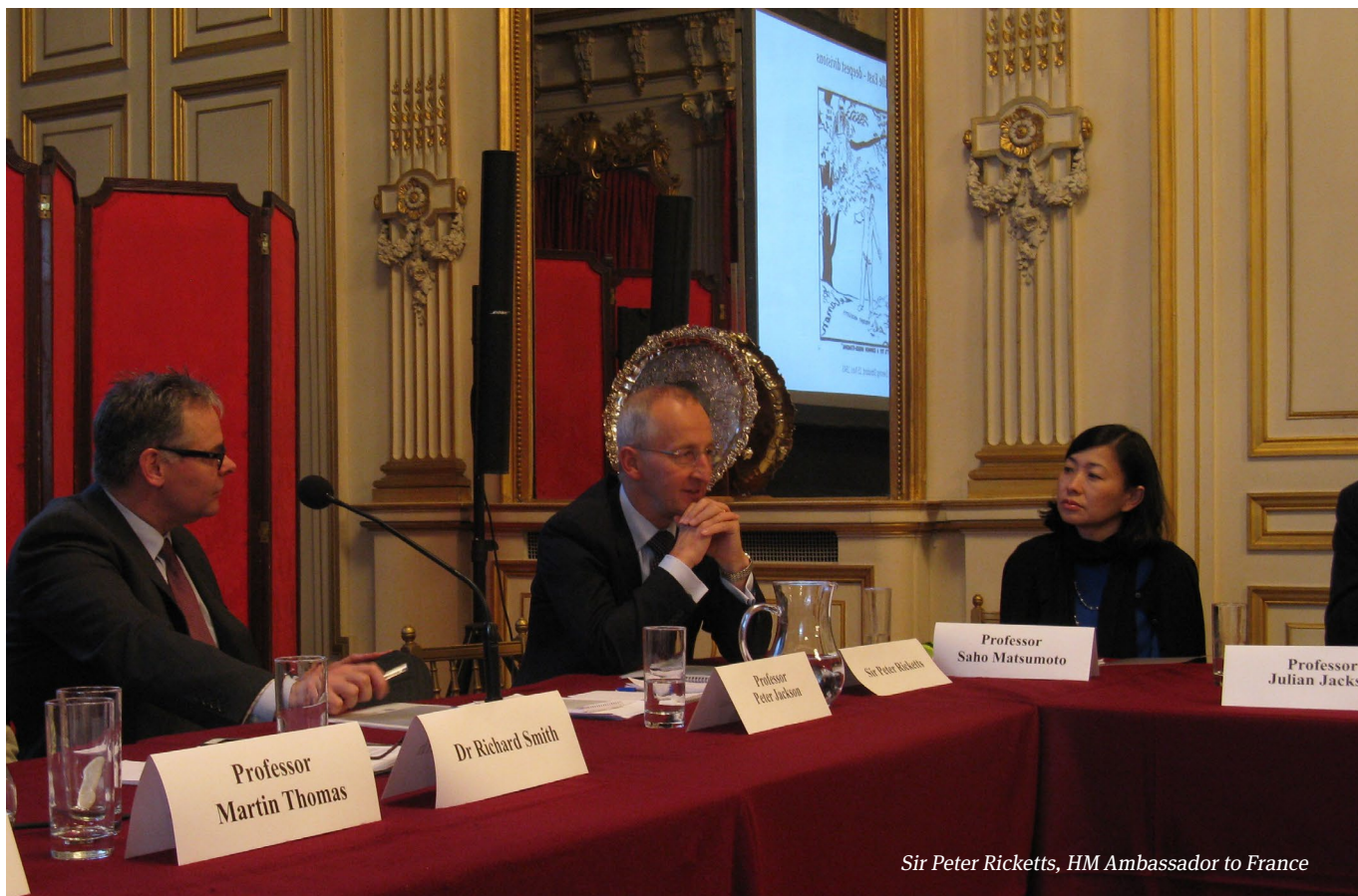
**Antony Beevor**  
**Antoine Capet (Université de Rouen)**  
**Julian Jackson (Queen Mary University of London)**  
**Peter Jackson (University of Glasgow)**  
**Rogelia Pastor-Castro (University of Strathclyde)**  
**David Reynolds (University of Cambridge)**  
**Martin Thomas (University of Exeter)**  
**Richard Toye (University of Exeter)**  
**Karine Varley (University of Strathclyde)**  
**Olivier Wieviorka (École Normale Supérieure de Cachan)**

The presentations are available as a podcast <https://soundcloud.com/ukinfrance/sets/britain-and-france-in-world-war-two> and the proceedings will be published by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Historians.

For the Twitter coverage see [#UKFranceWW2](https://twitter.com/UKFranceWW2)

**Rogelia Pastor-Castro**  
**University of Strathclyde**





Isabelle Tombs (FCO Historians),  
Antony Beevor and Rogelia Pastor-  
Castro (University of Strathclyde)





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# British Diplomacy in Latin America at the Turn of the twenty-first Century

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## A Witness Seminar

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On 29 January 2015, Dr Thomas Mills (Lancaster University) and Dr Michael Kandiah (King's College London) organised a Witness Seminar exploring contemporary British diplomacy in Latin America. The event was hosted by Canning House, the UK's leading Latin America think-tank. A Witness Seminar is like a group interview and this format was pioneered by the Institute of Contemporary British History, where Dr Kandiah is based. The Witness Seminar brought together a number of former British diplomats to reflect on their experience of serving in a variety of key Latin American capitals from the 1990s to the present day. The Witnesses included: Dr Peter Collecott (HM Ambassador to Brazil, 2004–8), Giles Paxman (HM Ambassador to Mexico, 2005–9), Donald Lamont (HM Ambassador to Venezuela, 2003–6; Governor of Falklands Islands, 1999–2002; HM Ambassador to Uruguay, 1991–4), Georgina Butler (HM Ambassador to Costa Rica, 2002–6; HM Ambassador to Nicaragua, 2004–6), and Nigel Haywood (Governor of Falkland Islands, 2010–14).

The seminar was chaired by Baroness Hooper (Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary British-Latin America Group). The participants also answered questions put to them by an audience comprising of expert academics and students, policy-makers and members of the business community. In an interesting and wide-ranging discussion, the Witnesses considered and reflected upon the challenges facing British diplomats in Latin America; how they work to promote and develop economic opportunities for Britain in the region; the longer term impact the Falklands/Malvinas dispute with Argentina has had on the UK's diplomacy there; how cuts in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's budget and the closure of Embassies has affected their ability to carry out their duties; Britain's relations with other influential foreign players in Latin America, such as the established power, the United States, and the rising powers like China; British aid policy towards Latin America; and the less well-known contribution the UK has made to counter-narcotics policy in the region. The witness seminar also generated a broader discussion that considered the life of a diplomat in current times and the role they are able to play in the modern foreign policy-making process. A transcript of the seminar (co-edited by Dr Mills and Dr Kandiah) is currently under preparation and will be published later this year. Funding and support for the event was provided by the Lancaster University FASS-Enterprise Centre and Canning House.

**T.C. Mills**

**M.D. Kandiah**



# Legacies of Empire Workshop

Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study,  
University of London



This exciting interdisciplinary workshop took place in Senate House, London, on 21 and 22 October 2015, bringing together scholars, journalists and members of international organisations to explore the legacies of European empires around the globe. Britain, France and Portugal were the main imperial powers under discussion, with a focus on their current engagement with former colonial nations.

Professor Norrie MacQueen from the University of St Andrews opened the proceedings with a keynote address on how changing global relations have affected Portugal's post-colonial adjustment.

Panels then followed on Lusophone/Portuguese relations, British and French foreign policies, the experiences of former colonized societies, and postcolonial development among others.

There was an extremely wide range of papers exploring diverse colonial/postcolonial histories, and bringing to the fore important contemporary issues, such as the current violence in Rakhine State, conflicting linguistic policies in Cameroon, and France-Syria relations.

The closing round table compared the experiences of three key post-colonial organisations – the CPLP (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa), the Commonwealth and La Francophonie – and their evolving relationship with the EU.

One of the highlights of the two-day event was the launch of the Oral History of the Modern Commonwealth (1965–2010) Project. Chaired by Professor Shula Marks, this session included talks by the project leaders, Professor Philip Murphy, Dr Sue Onslow and Dr Ruth Craggs. In particular, the primary researcher, Dr Onslow, shared her experience of conducting over 90 interviews with key members of the Commonwealth Secretariat and figures from

Commonwealth member states. The interviews will serve as an essential research tool for anyone investigating the organisation's history and will be made available on the project website: <http://www.commonwealthoralhistories.org/>.

The workshop was the result of a collaboration between the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICWS) and a number of European academic institutions, including King's College London, the Instituto de História Contemporânea/Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa, Université Paris-Diderot, Canterbury Christ Church University, and Universitat Internacional de Catalunya. This international network will continue to work with the ICWS and the School of Advanced Study's new Centre for Postcolonial Studies (<http://www.sas.ac.uk/about-us/centre-post-colonial-studies>) in order to run a range of related events in 2016. The Centre for Postcolonial Studies (CPCS) seeks in particular to explore the cultural histories of the postcolonial world and to highlight the value of policy-relevant research in the humanities. Please contact us for further information or if you are interested in becoming an affiliated member of the CPCS.

**Dr Catherine Gilbert, Centre for Postcolonial Studies**  
[Catherine.Gilbert@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Catherine.Gilbert@sas.ac.uk)





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# News from FCO Historians and The National Archives

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In October 2014 FCO Historians welcomed James Southern as the second of our collaborative doctoral students (co-supervised with Queen Mary University, London). His project looks at class and social diversity in the British Diplomatic Service after 1945, and uses FCO archives and interviews with former diplomats. He joins Sara Hiorns, who is looking at the experiences of diplomatic service children, 1945–1990.

In January Dr Luke Gibbon joined our team, fresh from completing his PhD at the University of Strathclyde on ‘Opium, the British Empire and the beginnings of an international drugs control regime, ca. 1890–1910’.



FCO Historians are currently preparing three volumes in the series Documents on British Policy Overseas for publication in 2016–17. They are: The Search for Western Security: The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, 1946–48; The Polish Crisis and UK Relations with Communist Europe, 1979–82 and The Challenge of Apartheid: UK–South African Relations, 1985–1986. In July FCO Historians published the proceedings of the Witness Seminar on the History, Role and Functions of the British Embassy in Paris. It includes contributions from BIHG members Rogelia Pastor–Castro and Helen Parr, FCO Historian Isabelle

Tombs, as well as testimonies from Sir David Manning, First Secretary, 1984–88, Sir Christopher Mallaby, Ambassador, 1993–1996, Lord Jay of Ewelme, Ambassador, 1996–2001 Sir John Holmes, Ambassador, 2001–2007.

The publication is available at [http://issuu.com/fcohistorians/docs/the\\_history\\_role\\_and\\_functions\\_of](http://issuu.com/fcohistorians/docs/the_history_role_and_functions_of)

In May 2015 the Archive Management Team at the FCO hosted a Records Day at Hanslope Park in Buckinghamshire. Presentations from the FCO and the Independent Reviewer covered the

records review process, release plan and archival management. The National Archives provided an overview of the challenges on digital transfer across government, and there was also a tour of the FCO archive.

A record of proceedings from the day, along with other information relating to FCO files (including transfer schedules), can be found on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/archive-records>.

**Richard Smith**  
FCO Historians

## Release of material on spies and the Cold War

On 23 October 2015 more than 400 files were released by The National Archives (TNA), covering a period from the 1930s to the 1960s, and focussing on the Cambridge spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean. The release comprised files from the Security Service (MI5), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Cabinet Office, and the papers can be found in classes KV 2, 3, and 6, FCO 158 and CAB 301.

The files also contain new material on the other Cambridge spies, Kim Philby, Anthony Blunt and John Cairncross, as well as on suspected agents and figures like Lord Boothby who were the subject of investigations. In the Cabinet Secretary's papers, there are interesting files on the Buster Crabb ('FROGMAN') episode in 1956, and an important review of the Secret Intelligence Service in 1952.

The historical importance of this joint, themed release lies in the sheer volume of material, and in the extra detail it provides on the Burgess and Maclean affair and other cases, rather than in any significant new revelations. In addition to fascinating personal detail on those under investigation, the files show security authorities in the early Cold War period struggling to come to terms with potential and actual treachery by colleagues and friends. Kim Philby, who was asked to resign from SIS in the aftermath of Burgess's and Maclean's defection but whose full treachery was not revealed until his own defection in 1963, can be seen to have been adept at deflecting attention from suspicion on himself, and in ensuring that Burgess and Maclean's departure was achieved with minimum risk to Moscow.

It is always important when assessing the significance of newly-released intelligence material to set it in a broader political, social and economic context, and to remember that the climate of the early post-war years was very different from today. This large and welcome transfer of security material into the public domain adds considerably to our understanding of the evolving security environment at this period.

**Gill Bennett**  
**FCO Historians**

Further information from The National Archives on the release can be found here:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/file-release-cold-war-cambridge-spies-burgess-and-maclean/>

It includes a podcast by Professor Christopher Andrew, formerly official historian of MI5, which provides an introduction to key files, and a discussion between TNA's head of modern collections, Dr Stephen Twigge, Professor Andrew and former chief historian of the FCO, Gill Bennett.

**Andrew Holt**  
**The National Archives**

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# BIHG Thesis Prize

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The BIHG Thesis Prize was established in 1996. It is awarded annually to the best doctoral thesis on any aspect and any period of International History, which has been awarded a degree by a British University or a British University College or College of Higher Education during the calendar year. Authors should send two returnable copies (preferably copied on both sides of the page to reduce weight) of their thesis to the Secretary of the British International History Group by 31 March of the year following that in which their doctorate is awarded. They should also inform the Secretary of the names of their internal and external examiners, whose views on the thesis may be requested. The thesis is judged by a Panel drawn from members of the BIHG Committee. In judging the competition the Panel pay particular attention to originality of approach, thoroughness of research, style of writing and presentation, and contribution to historical scholarship. The current value of the prize is £300.00. The result of the competition is announced at the annual conference each September.

## Rules

The thesis prize is awarded annually.

1. Only theses awarded a doctoral degree by a United Kingdom University or University College or College of Higher Education are eligible for consideration.
2. The thesis can be on any aspect and period of International History.
3. The competition will be judged by a Panel drawn from members and officers of the BIHG Committee.
4. The final submission date is 31 March of the year following the award of the doctoral degree.
5. The doctoral degree must be awarded during the calendar year preceding the award of the prize. Candidates should include a copy of the correspondence from their university or college which confirms the award of the degree.
6. Candidates for the prize should submit two copies to the Secretary of the BIHG and these will be returned on completion of the competition.
7. Candidates should provide the names of their internal and external examiners, whose views on the thesis may be requested.
8. The current value of the prize is £300.00.
9. The successful candidate will be invited to present a paper on an aspect of his /her thesis to the annual conference of the BIHG where all their conference expenses will be met.

## Address:

Professor Glyn Stone, Secretary BIHG, Department of Arts, University of the West of England, Bristol, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QY

## BIHG Thesis Prize winner

The BIHG Thesis Prize for 2015  
was awarded to **Elisabetta Tollardo**,  
University of Oxford, for her thesis on  
**'Italy and the League of Nations: Nationalism  
and Internationalism, 1922–1935'.**



## Interview with Laure Humbert, winner of BIHG Thesis Prize 2014

**British International History Annual Conference, University of Kent, 11 September 2015**

Laure Humbert won the 2014 Thesis Prize for her PhD thesis, 'France, the United Nations and the Displaced Persons Problem in Postwar Germany' (University of Exeter, 2014). She delivered a paper arising from her thesis at the BIHG annual conference when this interview took place.

Laure was born in Lorraine and educated at Lycée Fustel de Coulanges, Strasbourg and the University of Nancy before taking a Master's degree at the University of Glamorgan. She then worked as a research assistant before embarking on her doctorate under the supervision of Professor Martin Thomas and Professor Richard Overy in the department of history at the University of Exeter. She was awarded an AHRC studentship to pursue her PhD.

**Michael Hopkins:** Which historian or historians have been influences?

**Laure Humbert:** Robert Stieegman, who produced studies on concentration camps, and Tara Zahra, and her work on Displaced Persons and on nationalism.

**Michael Hopkins:** Do you have a favourite book of history?

**Laure Humbert:** Pierre Labouris on Vichy.

**Michael Hopkins:** Tell me how you came to concentrate on the topic of your thesis.

**Laure Humbert:** This was partly a result of what I did after my MA and partly a consequence of my personal circumstances – my mother is Portuguese, so I have a feel for people moving from one country to another. After completing my MA, I worked as a research assistant on a project on the refugee crises of the Spanish Civil War and on Displaced Persons (DPs) in broad perspective. In the course of my work, I came to believe that I could work on a more specialised topic.

**Michael Hopkins:** Tell me about how you pursued your topic.

**Laure Humbert:** I went to the archives at an early stage, on the advice of my supervisor, Professor Martin Thomas. I went first to examine the archives of the United Nations in New York. Then I visited the French archives, working through the diplomatic records and the archives of the occupation zone and various government agencies. I also conducted research at the British National Archives in Kew, where I looked, in particular, at the negotiations for the movement of DPs from the British occupation zone to the French occupation zone in Germany. In addition, I travelled to Germany to look at the records of the International Tracing Service.

**Michael Hopkins:** Tell me about your approach and the conclusions you reached.

**Laure Humbert:** I aimed to integrate foreign policy and humanitarian issues, high politics and microhistory. I wanted to examine not just the formation of policy but how it was implemented in the field. As I developed my ideas, it was clear that I was challenging existing views on the history of immigration. France is seen in the literature as more pro-Soviet than either Britain or the United States in the immediate postwar years. But my research reveals that French officials came to have doubts about their pro-Soviet stance much sooner than other scholars have suggested.

One of the central institutions in providing assistance after the war was the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). My work challenges claims made about its revolutionary approach to postwar problems.

Finally, my thesis is part of a trend in the historiography of bringing Anglo-American perspectives to bear on France and the Second World War.

**Michael Hopkins:** What happens next?

**Laure Humbert:** I have just taken up a post as lecturer in history at the University of Manchester. I have had an article accepted by the *Journal of Contemporary History*; and I am busy revising my thesis for publication.

This is my first attendance at the BIHG conference but I certainly intend to take a greater interest in the organisation. I am very grateful for the award of the Thesis Prize. It played an important part in securing my appointment as a lecturer at Manchester.

**Michael Hopkins**  
**University of Liverpool**

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# Conferences, news and events

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## The Dilks Collection at the University of Sheffield

The University of Sheffield Library has recently acquired the personal papers of the well-known historian David Dilks, official biographer of Neville Chamberlain and the author of the two-volume *Curzon in India* and *The Great Dominion: Winston Churchill in Canada, 1900–1954*. He was for many years Professor of International History at the University of Leeds and subsequently Vice Chancellor of the University of Hull between 1991 and 1999.

The first tranche of Professor Dilks' papers have now been catalogued and consist of the working files that he used in working on the project to explore the lives of former SOE operatives. This was done in conjunction with the Imperial War Museum and the Second World War Experience Centre and these institutions have the final outcomes of the project. However, the value of this collection is in the richness of the supporting material which will be an essential resource for any scholars interested in the workings of SOE and its staff. The files are contained in six archive boxes. The first consists of the full transcript of interviews carried out between 2002 and 2004 by Professor Dilks with 15 former members of SOE. The interviewees were, among others, Joan Bright Astley, Francis Cammaerts, James Dalton, Robert Ferrier, Lord Gibson, Sir Alexander Glen and Margaret Jackson. These transcripts are available elsewhere, but what makes this collection so much more useful to researchers is the supporting documentation available in many of the files. They also need to be read in conjunction with the contents of the separate boxes that contain the correspondence between Dilks and his interviewees. These include letters, e-mails, newspaper reviews and obituaries and sundry publications. In addition, there are also correspondence files relating to other members of SOE with documents and letters from family members.

A second box has a very useful collection of newspaper cuttings and interview material on Colin Mackenzie, who led SOE Force 136 in the Far East. The files also contain some reports on Force 136 and other SOE activities written by Mackenzie himself. In addition, there are files containing biographical research materials on Canadians who served with SOE and on

resistance in the Lille region of Northern France together with papers culled from The National Archives on Operations Foxley and Periwig, SOE in Asia, and the SOE crisis of September 1943. Another box has Dilks' extensive correspondence with Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker and also copies of the latter's communications with others which relate primarily to his work in the Mediterranean theatre. The files also include some reports written by Dodds-Parker, for example on the Massingham Mission and on Admiral Darlan.

David Dilks has provided guidance for researchers for each set of files and there is now a complete index for the six boxes described here, together with details on a small number of papers to which restrictions have been attached. Taken together, these materials are a major resource for anyone interested in the history of SOE, and Professor Dilks' assiduous collection of materials will allow for a much more in-depth appraisal of the organisation and its operatives.

Other files will be made available to researchers in due course, including those related to the many international conferences organised by Dilks and his colleagues from the 1960s onwards. For example, they include the important conferences on the European resistance to Nazism of the early 1960s and a similar exercise related to governments-in-exile. In many cases, these were the last conferences attended by those who had taken an active part in the matters being discussed and included scholars and representatives from behind the iron curtain. The files contain complete versions of conference papers in a variety of languages that have never been published, but which provide a fascinating insight into how these issues were understood at the time by historians and commentators from both Eastern and Western Europe.

Further details can be found on the University of Sheffield Library Special Collections website.

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/library/special>

**Bob Moore**  
**University of Sheffield**

## To Dar es Salaam and back: reflections on a PhD

Over the last twelve months, I have more or less trotted the globe, in search of archives. My PhD project, under the working title 'Politics, decolonisation, and the Cold War in Dar es Salaam, c. 1967–72', set out to write a multilateral history of domestic and international politics in the capital of post-independence Tanzania. If the focus was local, many of the dynamics I was addressing were distinctly global. My aim was not to rely too heavily on one particular source set, especially the English-language material available – and so I cast my net as wide as possible.

In France, I spent time at the diplomatic archives, split between Nantes and Paris. In the United States, my research took me coast-to-coast and back again: a month in College Park in Washington DC was followed by visits to the Ford Library in Ann Arbor, the Nixon Library in Los Angeles, the Johnson Library in Austin, and (as part of a side-project), the Carter Library in Atlanta, plus a detour to the tiny university town of Oberlin, Ohio, to consult the papers of Eduardo Mondlane, the Mozambican liberation movement leader. Back in Europe, I studied both East and West German diplomatic records at the Bundesarchiv, the Foreign Office archives, and in the Stasi records centre, all located in Berlin. In Warsaw, I spent two days at the Foreign Ministry archives. In Lisbon, the holdings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Archives at Torre do Tombo proved fertile ground. Finally, in Tanzania itself, I had mixed fortunes: the National Archives in Dar es Salaam contained little relevant material, while in Dodoma I was denied access to the records of the ruling party, CCM. Space does not permit me to elaborate any further on particular archives, but anyone interested is welcome to get in touch.

After the inevitable, 'why did you need to visit so many archives?', the question I usually have to field is 'how did you afford all this?' While this appears at first glance an expensive year, the reality was quite the opposite. Whereas had I made a series of brief visits abroad, I would have been paying rent both in the UK and for accommodation abroad, spending a whole 12 months out of the country permitted me to be 'homeless' and move between short-term agreements overseas. Given the exorbitant cost of London

rent and living costs vis-à-vis Berlin or Lisbon or Dar es Salaam, this essentially made my year far more affordable than if I had done research solely in the UK.

Of course, there were other costs to factor in, especially air travel. I was fortunate enough to receive a generous amount of additional funding. The Royal Historical Society, for example, covered my flight to Tanzania, while several American presidential libraries are very supportive of researchers. My global history project opened up possibilities of research grants earmarked for postgraduates from UK-based associations, like the German History Society and the Society for the Study of French History. All seemed especially receptive to the 'global' scope of my topic. I don't feel prospective PhD researchers should necessarily be put off by the cost of such a project, however ambitious it may seem.

The same applies to the language skills required. I am no polyglot. Even now – I confess openly here – I would only regard myself comfortable speaking or writing in English and French. I had studied German at school, but that required some serious brushing up. My Portuguese was non-existent. A year's hard graft got both to a level where I felt that I could extract factual detail from my sources reasonably well. My project, after all, was not principally concerned with the forensic textual examination that might characterise the work of, say, a cultural historian. My ability to read Portuguese, once the basics had been learned, was greatly helped by my prior knowledge of French, and I would encourage any historian conversant in a Latin language to check out the rich and largely untapped archives in Lisbon. In Poland, I worked with a research assistant – an altogether different experience. We had limited time and so worked out a system where he would translate the text verbally, while I typed. Obviously there are compromises of varying degrees present here, but I think they are worth taking to fulfil the 'global' ambitions of my project.

George Roberts is a third-year PhD student in History at the University of Warwick. More information about his work can be found at [www.warwick.ac.uk/georgeroberts](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/georgeroberts). His email is [george.roberts@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:george.roberts@warwick.ac.uk)



## Expatriates and British Foreign Policy

Antony Best and John Fisher intend to establish a discussion group on the subject of British expatriates in the context of power projection overseas during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Specifically, its focus will be on the world beyond the settled empire and on the interface of expatriates and the Foreign Office and its diplomatic and consular staff overseas. Possible contexts in which such interchanges occurred, might include, but are not limited to: commercial, legal, cultural, religious, humanitarian, patriotic, sporting, and intelligence gathering. Depending upon the level of interest, it is hoped to organise a one day seminar in 2016, with a view to developing the project further.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Antony (A.Best@lse.ac.uk) or John (John.Fisher@uwe.ac.uk).

## British International Studies Association

### Post Graduate Network Conference

The British International History Group sponsored two panels at the British International Studies Association annual conference held at King's College London on March 30th 2015. The theme of the panels was the use of comparison in international history. These panels, spanning both the eighteenth and twentieth centuries, challenged the assertion that comparative history is "more widely admired than consciously practiced" by examining the theoretical and realistic advantages that comparative methodologies can have for historians of international history. Both panels were well received and were followed up by an enthusiastic round of questions.

Twitter coverage [#BISAPGN2015](#)

Storify <https://storify.com/BISAPGN/bisapgn-third-annual-conference>



British International  
Studies Association



### Panel I

#### – International Policies in the 20th Century

**Itzel Toledo-García**  
(University of Essex)

The role of the United States in the recognition of post-revolutionary Mexico by Germany, France and Great Britain, 1920–1925

**Stephen Murphy**  
(University of Ulster)

Neutral Learning: The importance of the other European neutrals to Irish policy-making, 1939–1945

**Charlie Hall**  
(University of Kent)

Comparing Policies of Plunder: British and American Approaches to Exploitation of German Science and Technology after the Second World War

### Panel II

#### – Comparisons in the 18th Century

**Adam Storning**  
(University of Cambridge)

'He Preferred the Love of Glory to the Possession of the World Entire': King Frederick the Great of Prussia's Comparison of Himself with Charles XII of Sweden

**Jon Singerton**  
(University of Edinburgh)

"One of the Greatest Philosophers" and a "Thoroughly Ugly" Gentleman: A Comparison of the Viennese Perceptions of Benjamin Franklin and William Lee, 1776–1778.

## France and the Second World War in Global Perspective, 1919–45

The University of Strathclyde played host to a two-day conference in July which sought to re-evaluate the French experience of the Second World War from an international and global perspective. The conference – which was organised by Dr Rogelia Pastor-Castro and Dr Karine Varley in conjunction with the Global War Studies journal – brought together international, military, diplomatic and cultural historians, who tackled a wide variety of topics and approaches. These included the French colonial empire in Africa and Indochina, as well as the policies of allied and axis powers towards Vichy and the Free French. The conference explored the lead-up to the outbreak of hostilities and the factors behind the defeat of 1940. Several speakers addressed the allied bombing of France, while other topics included prisoners of war, the persecution of the Jews and the economic history of the war. Professor Olivier Wieviorka of the École Normale Supérieure de Cachan delivered the keynote lecture on new approaches to the liberation of France. His lecture re-evaluated the role played by the French resistance and considered the exceptional nature of the speed of the liberation and the relatively low levels of

casualties. The plenary session began with Professor Talbot Imlay of Université Laval, who spoke about approaches to the German occupation of France. This was then followed by Professor Peter Jackson of the University of Glasgow, who addressed the neglected subject of the foreign policy of the Vichy government, emphasising the ideological dimension to the regime's dealings with Germany and Italy as well as the allied powers. Professor Martin Thomas of the University of Exeter responded to both speakers, suggesting that the occupation might be understood through a colonial framework. The Higher Education Attachée to the French Embassy in London, Dr Catherine Robert, joined over 70 delegates from 15 countries who enjoyed a civic reception and conference dinner at Glasgow City Chambers banqueting hall.

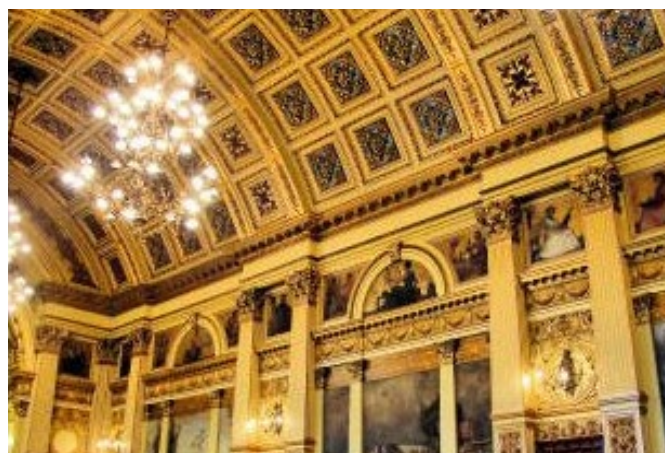
Twitter coverage [#FranceWW2Global](#)

Storify <https://storify.com/KarineVarley/france-and-the-second-world-war-in-global-perspective>

**Dr Karine Varley**  
**University of Strathclyde**



*Rogelia Pastor-Castro, Talbot Imlay, Peter Jackson, Martin Thomas*



*Civic Reception at Glasgow City Chambers*



*Laure Humbert, Christina Wu, Belle Joseph and Sarah Frank*



## Journals

### **Diplomacy and Statecraft** (ISSN 0959 2296)

The Editor of *Diplomacy and Statecraft* (Taylor & Francis) is Professor Brian McKercher of Victoria University, British Columbia, Canada and the Book Review Editors are Dr John Fisher of the University of the West of England, Bristol and Dr Phyllis Soybel, of College of Lake County. Professor McKercher welcomes articles on all aspects of International/Diplomatic History. The latest issues of the journal (vol. 26, 2015) include articles by several BIHG members: Joe Maiolo, 'Personalities, Policies, and International History: The Life and Work of Donald Cameron Watt'; Michael Hughes and Roger Platt, 'Far Apart but Close Together: A Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of the Career Structure and Organisational Culture of the Post-War British Diplomatic Service'; and Daniel Hucker, 'British Peace Activism and "New" Diplomacy: Revisiting the 1899 Hague Peace Conference'.

Manuscripts, submitted in duplicate, and editorial correspondence should be sent to B.J.C. McKercher, Editor, *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, Department of History, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3045 STN CSC Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P4 Canada E-mail: [brianmck@uvic.ca](mailto:brianmck@uvic.ca)

### **International History Review** (ISSN 0707 5332)

The Editor of the *International History Review*, Professor Andrew Williams at the University of St. Andrews, welcomes articles on all areas of international history and on all historical periods. The book review editor is Professor Gaynor Johnson at the University of Kent. Members and supporters of the British International History Group are encouraged to submit articles and to ensure that publishers send review copies of any research monographs they publish to the journal. Volume 37 includes, among others, Christopher Bell, 'Sentiment vs Strategy: British Naval Policy, Imperial Defence, and the Development of Dominion Navies, 1911–14'; Bevan Sewell, "'We Need Not Be Ashamed of our own Economic Profit Motive": Britain, Latin America, and the Alliance for Progress, 1959–63'; Jérôme aan de Wiel, 'The Long Rupture, 1870–1970: the Darker Side of Franco-Irish Relations' and '1914: What will the British do? The Irish Home Rule Crisis in the July Crisis'; Sue Onslow, 'The Commonwealth and the Cold War, Neutralism, and Non-Alignment'; and Frank Gerits, "'When the Bull Elephants Fight": Kwame Nkrumah, Non-Alignment, and Pan-Africanism as an Interventionist Ideology in the Global Cold War (1957–66)'

Papers for consideration should be sent to the Editors at [ihreview@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ihreview@st-andrews.ac.uk). The website address for the on-line journal is:

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/RINH>

## Publications by BIHG members

Maartje Abbenhuis, *An Age of Neutrals. Great Power Politics 1815–1914*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Matthew Glencross, *The State Visits of Edward VII: Reinventing Royal Diplomacy for the Twentieth Century*. Palgrave, 2014

Andrew Holt, *The Foreign Policy of the Douglas-Home Government: Britain, the United States and the End of Empire*. Palgrave, 2014

J.M. Lemnitzer, *Power, Law and the End of Privateering*. Palgrave, 2014

Gordon Martel, *The Month That Changed The World: July 1914*. Oxford University Press, 2014

David Motadel, *Islam and Nazi Germany's War*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014

T.O. Smith, *Vietnam and the Unravelling of Empire. General Gracey in Asia 1942–5*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014

Keith M. Wilson, *Directions of Travel: Great Britain and the Great Powers before and after the Great War: Views and Reviews*. The Isis Press, 2014



# International History Seminar

## Institute of Historical Research

### Convenors:

Mrs Aspey (The Rothschild Archive),  
Dr Baxter (The Cabinet Office),  
Dr Best (LSE), Dr Ellison (QMUL),  
Professor Johnson (Kent), Dr Kelly (KCL),  
Dr Kandiah (KCL), Mrs Staerck (IHR),  
Dr Utting (KCL) and Professor Young  
(Nottingham)

### Venue:

American History Room, Institute  
of Historical Research, University of  
London, Senate House, Malet Street,  
London, WC1E 7HU

**Time:** 6pm

[www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/125](http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/125)

### Spring Term 2016

<b>Tuesday 5 January</b>	<b>Dr Peter Yearwood (University of Papua New Guinea)</b>	'The Fall of Asquith, Phase 1, November 1916'
<b>Tuesday 19 January</b>	<b>Dr Edward Hampshire (Sandhurst)</b>	“‘Why can’t we be more like the French?’ Margaret Thatcher, the FCO and the re-setting of British overseas arms sales policy, 1979–80’
<b>Tuesday 2 February</b>	<b>Dr Kaetan Mistry (UEA)</b>	‘War Short of War: The United States and Political Warfare at the Outset of “Cold” War’
<b>Tuesday 16 February</b>	<b>Toshi Aono (LSE)</b>	‘Anglo-American relations in the Kennedy Era’
<b>Tuesday 1 March</b>	<b>Dr Dianne Kirby (Ulster, Coleraine)</b>	‘J Edgar Hoover, the FBI and the religious Cold War’
<b>Tuesday 15 March</b>	<b>Professor Erik Goldstein (Boston University, USA)</b>	Paper title to be confirmed

### Summer Term 2016

<b>Tuesday 26 April</b>	<b>Harris Mylonas (George Washington University)</b>	‘The Politics of Nation-building in the Balkans’
<b>Tuesday 10 May</b>	<b>Dr Rudra Chaudhuri (KCL)</b>	Paper title to be confirmed
<b>Tuesday 24 May</b>	<b>Dr Martin Farr (Newcastle)</b>	Paper title to be confirmed
<b>Tuesday 7 June</b>	<b>Amy Limoncelli (Boston College, USA)</b>	‘Britain, the United Nations and the creation of an International Civil Service’

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# Obituary

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## Professor Keith Neilson

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Members of BIHG were saddened to learn of the untimely death of Professor Keith Neilson. Over the years, he had been a good friend to the Group and, in 2009, gave the keynote address at its annual conference.

Keith Erick Neilson was born and raised in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. He was educated at the University of Alberta (B.Sc., B.A. and M.A.), and then received his doctorate from the University of Cambridge for a thesis on the Anglo-Russian alliance during the First World War, completed under the supervision of Norman Stone and later published as *Strategy and Supply: The Anglo-Russian Alliance, 1914–1917* (1984). In 1979, after a brief spell at Royal Military College of Canada at Royal Roads, he took up a position at RMC Kingston, where he remained for the next thirty five years.

The problems of Britain's relations with Russia in a wider imperial context remained very much at the heart of his scholarly concerns. His magisterial studies *Britain and the Last Tsar: The Russian Factor in British Policy, 1894–1917* (1995) and *Britain, Soviet Russia and the Collapse of the Versailles Settlement, 1919–1939* (2006), more especially, helped to establish the centrality of the Russian factor in British strategic foreign policy and so provided important correctives to more traditional interpretations focused on Germany, without, however, yielding to the temptations of glib revisionism. A prolific author with five monographs, eleven edited collections and some fifty two articles in learned journals to his name, and a witty and entertaining lecturer, Professor Neilson wore his learning lightly, but no-one could be left in doubt about the profundity of his historical understanding and the keenness of his insights. His oeuvre is a remarkable, for rare, achievement in scholarship. Throughout it reverberates his unmistakable authorial voice – authoritative and authentic, offering a wry look at the follies of the past, sceptical of grand theories and presentist fads alike, but never censorious or cynical.

His work will remain a monument to his achievements:  
'Si vis monumentum, circumspice.'

**T.G. Otte**

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# BIHG Officers and Members of the BIHG executive 2015–2016

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Following the Annual General Meeting of the Group at the London School of Economics Conference, the following will serve as officers and members of the Executive during 2015–2016

## Chair:

Professor John Young  
University of Nottingham

## Vice-Chair:

Dr Patrick Finney  
Aberystwyth University

## Secretary:

Professor Glyn Stone  
University of the West of England, Bristol

## Treasurer:

Dr Rogelia Pastor-Castro  
University of Strathclyde

## Newsletter Editor:

Dr John Fisher  
University of the West of England

## Members:

Dr Antony Best, London School of Economics  
Dr James Ellison, Queen Mary University of London  
Dr Neil Fleming, University of Worcester  
Dr Martin Folly, Brunel University  
Dr Michael Hopkins, University of Liverpool  
Prof Gaynor Johnson, University of Kent  
Dr David Kaufman, University of Edinburgh  
Dr Seung-young Kim, University of Sheffield  
Dr Steven Morewood, University of Birmingham  
Prof Thomas Otte, University of East Anglia  
Dr Helen Parr, University of Keele  
Dr Philip Towle, University of Cambridge

## Co-opted Members:

Dr Andrew Holt, The National Archives  
Dr Richard Smith, Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
George Roberts, University of Warwick, Post Graduate representative  
David Watson representing the Scottish Universities  
Dr Robert McNamara, University of Ulster, representing the Northern Ireland Universities  
Professor Andrew Williams, Editor of the journal *International History Review*

The Editor would like to thank all the contributors. During 2015–16 please send items for the newsletter, and the news and events e-mail bulletins to [John.Fisher@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:John.Fisher@uwe.ac.uk). The deadline for the newsletter is **30 September 2016**.

You can also follow us on twitter and tweets for @BIHGroup can be sent to [George.Roberts@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:George.Roberts@warwick.ac.uk)



## Call for Papers

# BIHG 28th Annual conference 2016

**8-10 September 2016**

**University of Edinburgh**

The BIHG Committee invites you to contribute a paper to the conference. As in previous conferences we are pleased to receive offers to present papers on a wide range of subjects in International History, in any period.

These include:

- Inter-State Diplomatic Relations
- Domestic Issues in Foreign Policy
- History of International Relations
- Military History (including strategic issues, POWs etc)
- Intelligence and/or Propaganda
- International Organisations and Institutions
- Inter-Imperial Relations
- International Economic Relations
- Cultural and/or Transnational Processes

The committee accepts both individual paper (20 minutes) and complete panel submissions consisting of three 20 minute papers.

We welcome contributions from postgraduate students and will waive the conference fee if their paper is accepted for presentation.

If you wish to offer a paper in any of the above areas please send a 250 word abstract and one page CV to [Glyn.Stone@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Glyn.Stone@uwe.ac.uk)

The deadline for receipt of offers to contribute is **1 March 2016**

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**Keynote speaker  
John Bew  
King's College London**





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